

## CLAIMS

### What Is Claimed Is:

- 1 1. A system for centralized transfer of cargo to and from rail cars comprising:  
2 a first railway to accommodate the rail cars;  
3 a staging area; and  
4 a second railway positioned between the first railway and the staging area to  
5 accommodate a movable transfer dock;  
6 a palletized cargo container specifically adapted for shipping cargo in a rail car  
7 comprising  
8 a base;  
9 two side walls extending upward from said base;  
10 a platform secured to said side walls; and  
11 an open top;  
12 wherein the rail car has a conveyor means on the floor thereof;  
13 wherein the palletized cargo container is movable on said conveyor means; and  
14 wherein the cargo is transferred between the staging area and the rail cars via the  
15 movable transfer dock.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the staging area is a truck loading and unloading zone.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said rail cars are refrigerated rail cars.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the movable transfer dock includes a means for  
2 positioning the movable transfer dock.

- 1 5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a means for temporarily securing the movable  
2 transfer dock to at least one of the rail cars.
- 1 6. The system of claim 4 wherein the movable transfer dock further comprises conveyor  
2 means for facilitating the movement of cargo.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the movable transfer dock is a partially enclosed unit  
2 comprising a plurality of doors for receiving and depositing cargo.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the movable transfer dock further comprises expandable  
2 curtain seals for sealing the area between at least one door and the rail cars.
- 1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein one or more of the rail cars are boxcars.
- 1 10. A cargo container system comprising:  
2 a rail car having a conveyor means on the floor thereof;  
3 a palletized cargo container specifically adapted for shipping cargo in a rail car,  
4 comprising:  
5 a base;  
6 two side walls extending upward from said base;  
7 a platform secured to said side walls; and  
8 an open top;  
9 wherein the rail car has a conveyor means on the floor thereof; and  
10 wherein the palletized cargo container is movable on said conveyor means.

- 1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the platform is adjustable in a heightwise direction.